



Mid-2020 Population Estimates Note

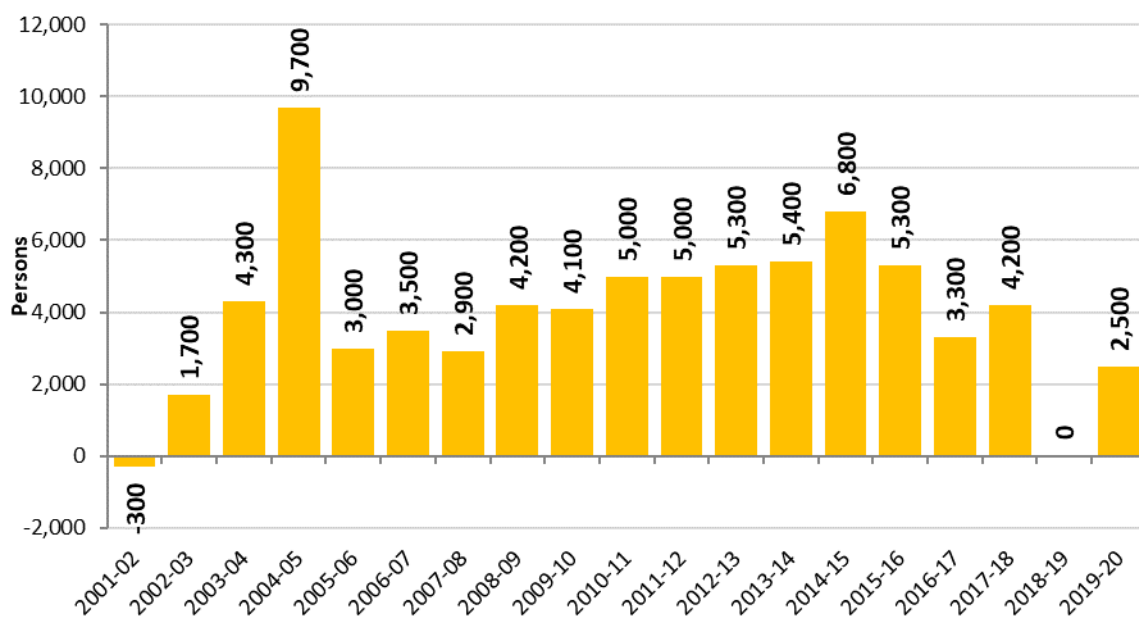
The mid-2020 population estimates cover the period up to 30 June 2020 and so only describe some of the impacts of the early part of the pandemic on the UK population.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates Bristol's mid-2020 population to be 465,866, an increase of 2,489 people (0.5%) since mid-2019.

Figure 1 shows annual population change between 2001 and 2020. Between 2008 and 2016 Bristol's population grew by an average of 1.2% per year. Since 2016, this has fallen to an average rate of 0.5% per year. Mid-2019 represents a break in the pattern of annual population growth since 2002, largely due to a large increase in international out migration in that year.

Figure 1: Annual Population Change 2001 to 2020

Source: *Mid-2020 Population Estimates*. ONS licensed under the Open Government Licence.



Nationally, the UK's population increased by 0.4% in the 12 months to mid-2020, the slowest rate in two decades. However, the 12 months to June 2020 can be broken into two clear parts. The first eight months, when births, deaths and migration patterns were similar to trends seen in recent years, and the four months from March, when the first wave of coronavirus hit. Some of the clearest impacts of the pandemic can be seen in the increase in the number of deaths, and reduction in the number of moves made within the UK.

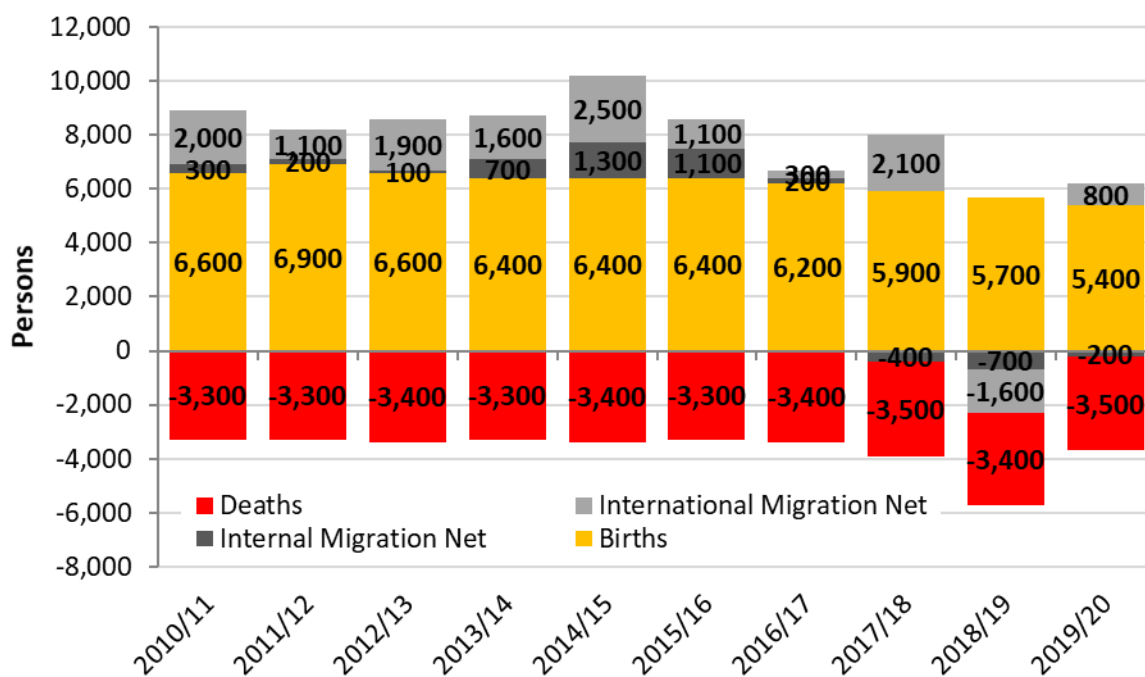
Components of Population Change

The main factors effecting Bristol's population growth 2019-20 were natural change (more births than deaths) – accounting for two thirds of Bristol's population growth - and more people moving into Bristol to live than leaving - accounting for the remaining third of Bristol's population growth (see Figure 2).

Births continued to fall, with 5,423 births in the 12 months to mid-2020, the lowest number for 14 years. The number of deaths increased to 3,539, an increase of 166 deaths compared to 2018-19.

Figure 2: Components of population change in Bristol 2010/11 to 2019/20

Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates. ONS licensed under the Open Government Licence.



Migration can be split into internal migration (moves to and from other parts of the UK) and international migration (moves into and out of the UK). In the 12 months to mid-2020, 7,380 international in-migrants moved from outside of the UK to live in Bristol and 6,628 international out-migrants left the UK. This resulted in a relatively low net gain of 752 international migrants overall. Unusually, in the 12 months to

mid-2019, the number of people leaving Bristol to move outside the UK increased substantially, resulting in negative net international migration of 1,575 people in that one year. As a result, Bristol saw no growth in population between 2018 and 2019.

Net internal migration has seen, for the third year running, more people move out of Bristol to other parts of the UK than moved into Bristol from other parts of the UK (this includes moves to and from our neighbouring local authorities). The 12 months to mid-2020 saw a net loss of 190 people.

Coronavirus and the impact on population estimates

ONS Mid-2020 population estimates reflect the population at the end of June 2020 towards the end of the first wave of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During the period between March and June 2020, the UK was in lockdown for much of the time and these restrictions had direct impacts on population change at both the national and subnational level. Events that affected the components of population change and that feed into the population estimates include:

- a “first wave” of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic occurred during the period up to June 2020
- moving home within the UK became more difficult from 23 March 2020, however, many moves for study had already occurred before the pandemic
- international immigration became more difficult, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advising against overseas travel from 17 March 2020
- areas with the other populations we measure, such as prisoners or members of armed forces, had fewer people joining those populations in the months up to June 2020

Access to population data was also an issue. The estimates of long-term international migration included in this release are the best possible given the available data sources. However, they remain experimental, and users should be aware that they are likely to be revised as new sources of information become available, and as ONS refine the methodology for measuring migration.

What next?

The Population of Bristol report will be updated in July to include more detailed analysis of these population estimates and 2020 ward level population estimates will be published in October 2021.

ONS Mid-2021 population estimates will be published in September 2022 and will take account of the results of Census 2021. ONS will then revise the population estimates back series 2012-2020.

Further information

For further information please go to [ONS Population Estimates](#) and the ONS blog [How many people live in the UK? | National Statistical \(ons.gov.uk\)](#). More information about Bristol's population can be found in [The Population of Bristol report](#)

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